

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 21, 23 and 25 have been amended and claim 22 has been canceled.

Claims 21 and 23-30 are pending.

In the outstanding Office action dated December 14, 2005, claims 23 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. More particularly, the Examiner indicated that it was unclear whether or not the "anchoring mechanism" was being claimed. Accordingly, claims 23 and 25 have been amended to positively recite the "anchoring mechanism" and thus, it is believed that claims 23 and 25 now satisfy the requirements of § 112.

Moreover, in the outstanding Office action, claims 21 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kapadia et al. (4,816,028) and claims 21-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Quiachon et al. (5,628,783). Additionally, claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Quiachon et al.; claims 26-28 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kapadia et al. in view of Piplani et al. (5,489,295); and claims 26-28 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kapadia et al. in view of Parodi (5,693,087).

As an initial matter, it is to be noted that the present application claims priority to the Quiachon et al. patent. As such, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 21-30 in view of the Quiachon et al. patent under § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Moreover, in view of incorporation into independent claim 21 of the subject matter recited in claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 21 and its dependent claims 23-30 now define patentable subject matter. Significantly, in the outstanding Office action, claim 22 the subject matter of which was incorporated into independent claim 21, was not rejected in view of art other than the Quiachon et al. reference. Accordingly, it is believed that each of pending claims 21 and 23-30 are allowable over the cited art.

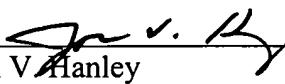
CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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